

STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE  
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 61

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STATEWIDE CIVIL DEFENSE TEST - JUNE 15, 1955

Part I - General Information

1. A national civil defense test, called "Operation Alert 1955", will be held between 12:00 P.M. (noon), E.D.T., Wednesday, June 15 and 2:00 P.M., E.D.T., Thursday, June 16, 1955. States, Territories, Possessions and the District of Columbia will participate.

2. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will participate in the June test under authority provided in Section 4 of the State Council of Civil Defense Act of 1951, P.L. 28. The primary purposes of the statewide test will be:

- (a) To further test the over-all effectiveness of State and local attack warning systems and devices,
- (b) To further test county and local plans for emergency mobilization and operations; and
- (c) To provide further opportunity for public practice of self-protection measures.

The test also will serve further to stimulate public interest and participation in the statewide civil defense program.

Part II - Outline of Test Program

3. In brief, the general outline of activities to be carried out during "Operation Alert 1955" is as follows:

A total of three (3) test warning signals (one "Yellow", one "Red" and one "White") will be transmitted via the bell-and-lights instantaneous air raid warning system and "fanned out" locally. Based on these signals, State, county and local civil defense forces will mobilize for emergency action and will supervise public participation activities (halting of traffic, etc.). Civil defense personnel also will carry out a statewide communications drill, together with varied test operations, the latter as may locally be planned.

4. Over-all regulations governing Pennsylvania test activities are outlined below. Warning signal "fan outs", public soundings of warnings, public participation activities, and control center and simulated emergency operations will be carried out in general accordance with previously prescribed standards, notably those set forth in Information Circulars Nos. 50 and 53, dated May 14 and September 13, 1954, respectively.

5. While at variance with certain of the guides set forth in the Federal Civil Defense Administration's "Standards for the Detailed Development of National Civil Defense Test Exercise 'Operation Alert 1955'", dated March 1, 1955, the test regulations prescribed below have been prepared in accordance with preferences expressed by the great majority of all County Civil Defense Directors within the Commonwealth. Furthermore, they have been closely coordinated with those to be in force in surrounding states.



Part II - Test Warning Signals and their Assumed Meanings

6. The three (3) test warning signals governing statewide activities to be carried out on Wednesday, June 15, 1955, will be:

- (a) A standard "Yellow" signal (code name - "Lemon Juice") to be transmitted via bell-and-lights, beginning precisely at 1205 hours (12:05 P.M.), E.D.T.

The "Yellow" test signal will be assumed to mean that "hostile aircraft have been detected approaching the United States".

- (b) A standard "Red" signal (code name - "Apple Jack") transmitted via the bell-and-lights system, beginning precisely at 1405 hours (2:05 P.M.), E.D.T.

The "Red" test signal shall be assumed to mean that "hostile aircraft have 'penetrated' the air over Pennsylvania and that any and all communities within the Commonwealth may expect attack at any moment".

- (c) A standard "White", or "All Clear", signal (code name - "Snow Man") to be transmitted via the bell-and-lights system, beginning precisely at 1415 hours (2:15 P.M.), E.D.T.

The "White" test signal shall be assumed to mean that "the air is 'clear' of hostile aircraft, that the public may leave their places of shelter and that civil defense forces may undertake unrestricted emergency operations".

SPECIAL NOTE: Should any warning signals other than the three (3) test signals specifically provided for (Subparagraphs 6(a), (b) and (c), above) be received via the bell-and-lights system, they shall be considered to be "true", or "actual", warnings and appropriate emergency action promptly shall be initiated by all concerned. Should "true", or "actual", warning signals be received at, or about the time of, the scheduled test signals, immediate notice of their nature will be disseminated and all concerned shall act accordingly.

Part IV - Action to be Initiated upon Receipt of Test Warning Signals

7. Action initiated upon receipt of each of the three (3) test warning signals shall be as follows:

- (a) Test "Yellow". Immediately upon receipt, the "Yellow" test signal shall be locally "fanned out" from bell-and-lights signal receiving stations, in accordance with previously prescribed "fan out" plans (see Subparagraph 7(a), Information Circular No. 53). Upon receipt of the test "Yellow" signal, State, county and local civil defense forces shall mobilize in general accordance with standards previously prescribed (see Paragraphs 12 through 16, Information Circular No. 53), but with such local variations as may be ordered to "fit" details of the test. Control centers shall be activated in general accordance with previously prescribed standards (see Paragraphs 9 through 11, Information Circular No. 50), but at such specific times during "Condition Yellow" as may locally be directed for the test.
- (b) Test "Red". Immediately upon receipt, the test "Red" signal publicly shall be sounded on sirens, horns and whistles in the standard manner. Upon public sounding of the test "Red" signal, traffic shall be brought to a halt and the public will be expected to carry out previously prescribed self-protection





measures (pulling blinds, "taking cover", etc.). Control center operations shall be continued during "Condition Red" in the standard manner.

- (c) Test "White", or "All Clear". Immediately upon receipt, the test "White", or "All Clear", signal publicly shall be sounded on sirens, horns and whistles in the standard manner. Upon public sounding of the "White", or "All Clear", signal, traffic may resume movement and the public may "leave cover" and resume normal activities. In general, local test operations will be initiated following public sounding of the "White", or "All Clear", signal, but at such specific times as may be locally directed (late afternoon, early evening, etc.). Except as limited by the provisions of Subparagraph 8(d), below, control center operations shall be continued during "Condition White" in the standard manner.

#### Part V - Special Test Regulations

8. The following special regulations will govern all test activities carried out in Pennsylvania on June 15, 1955:

- (a) Time Limitations. In general, State, county and local test activities shall be confined to the period extending from 1205 hours (12:05 P.M.) and 2330 hours (11:30 P.M.), E.D.T., on Wednesday, June 15, 1955.
- (b) Public Sounding of Warning Devices. The new, as-yet-not-officially-adopted "Alert" signal (a three- to five-minute steady blast on sirens, horns and whistles) may locally be sounded in connection with evacuation (see Subparagraph (g), below), or other special test operations carried out after 1430 hours (2:30 P.M.), E.D.T., on June 15, provided due public notice is given well in advance of all planned soundings of the signal. Except for "Alert" signals so sounded, no test warning signals other than the "Red" and "White" specifically provided for in Subparagraphs 6(b) and (c), above, shall publicly be sounded on sirens, horns or whistles on Wednesday or Thursday, June 15 and 16, 1955.
- (c) Local "Fan out" of "Yellow" Test Signal. Special radio broadcasts may be used for local "fan out" of the "Yellow" Test signal and for "issuance" of local mobilization orders. Where such broadcasts are used, the public transmissions must not only be clearly identified as "test messages", but also must be specifically addressed to those forces directly concerned (e.g. "The following is a special civil defense "test" announcement: All Johnson Township civil defense wardens and auxiliary policemen are hereby directed to report to their assigned duty stations".) Special "flash announcements" not identified as "test messages" could result in undesirable public alarm, while failure to identify the specific forces to whom orders are publicly broadcast is likely to result in serious confusion in other communities. Under no circumstances whatsoever, shall sirens, horns or whistles be publicly sounded in connection with the test "Yellow" signal or with local mobilization of civil defense forces during "Condition Yellow".
- (d) Duration of Statewide Communications Drill. State, county and local control centers shall be activated during "Condition Yellow" (see Subparagraph 7(a), above) and shall remain in



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operation until 1630 hours (4:30 P.M.), E.D.T., on Wednesday, June 15, unless granted authority to cease operations at an earlier hour by recognized authorities. Insofar as the communications phase of the test is concerned, it shall be assumed that any and all "enemy attacks" on Pennsylvania communities take place at 1411 hours (2:11 P.M.), E.D.T., on June 15, 1955.

- (e) Temporary State Control Centers. Due to construction work at the new Eastern Area Headquarters (Quakertown), all county control centers in the Eastern Area will "report to Harrisburg Control", using the following "trunk hunter" telephone number: Harrisburg - CEdar 8-2581. The new Central Area Headquarters (Lewistown) will be in operation during the test. All county control centers in the Central Area will "report to Central Area Control", using the two following telephone numbers: Lewistown 5418 and 5473. These are temporary "trunk hunter" lines of limited capacity, so in placing calls it will be wise to ask for "Lewistown 5418 or 5473". (Counties in the Western Area will "report to Western Area Control" in the standard manner.)
- (f) County and Local Action Required in the Event of Failure to Receive Test Warning Signals. Should mechanical failures in the bell-and-lights system, or local break-down of "fan out" procedures, result in failure to receive the prescribed test warning signals (Subparagraphs 6(a), (b) and (c), above), the following action shall be taken by county and local officials directly concerned: In the event of failure to receive the test "Yellow" signal prior to 1235 hours (12:35 P.M.), E.D.T., mobilization shall be "automatically initiated" at 1235 hours (12:35 P.M.), E.D.T. In the event of failure to receive the test "Red" signal prior to 1410 hours (2:10 P.M.), E.D.T., responsible individuals shall "automatically sound" the standard "Red" signal on public warning devices, beginning precisely at 1410 hours (2:10 P.M.), E.D.T. In the event of failure to receive the test "White", or "All Clear", signal prior to 1420 hours (2:20 P.M.), responsible individuals shall "automatically sound" the standard "White", or "All Clear", signal on public warning devices, beginning precisely at 1420 hours (2:20 P.M.), E.D.T.

SPECIAL NOTE: In order to prevent repetition of defects which may be disclosed by the test, County and Local Civil Defense Directors are hereby directed promptly to furnish their respective Area Directors with written reports of any and all test warning failures of the types provided for immediately above.

- (g) Local Evacuation Tests. County and local civil defense organizations may carry out evacuation tests on June 15, 1955, in accordance with the following restrictions: Such tests shall be carried out only with full knowledge and consent of the executive officers, or governing bodies, of all political subdivisions directly involved. Such tests may be conducted only during "Condition Yellow" or "Condition White". Should an evacuation test initiated during "Condition Yellow" not be concluded prior to public sounding of the test "Red" signal, all evacuation activities shall come to a halt upon public sounding of the test "Red" signal and all participants will be expected to "take cover" as quickly as possible. Special "Alert" signals publicly sounded in connection with such tests (see Subparagraph 8(b) above) shall not be sounded prior to 1430 hours (2:30 P.M.), E.D.T. Where such tests are undertaken,





all plans for the movement of "evacuees" over highways, streets and other public thoroughfares shall be fully coordinated with local officials concerned with public safety (police, fire, etc.). General plans of all such tests shall provide for due and adequate advance publicity relating to the tests.

- (h) Area "Clearance" of Inter-County Test Operations. All County Civil Defense Directors undertaking joint test operations involving movement of personnel or equipment across county lines shall "clear" basic plans for all such operations through their respective Area Directors.

#### Part VI - Test Safety Precautions

9. In planning test activities, every effort must be made to provide for maximum safety of all participants. The following precautions are essential:

- (a) Fully qualified personnel must supervise the lighting of fires, the discharge of explosives and all other activities carried out in the simulation of enemy strikes on local communities. Furthermore, plans for all such activities must incorporate adequate safeguards both for people and property.
- (b) All vehicles engaged in simulated emergency operations must be driven with maximum care and due regard for public safety. No such vehicles should travel at any time or place at speeds exceeding thirty-five miles per hour (35 m.p.h.), while lesser speeds should be adhered to in densely populated areas.

10. The State Council of Civil Defense will order no inter-community or inter-county, movement of personnel or equipment in connection with the June test. County and local civil defense organizations may, however, arrange for such movements on a voluntary basis (see Subparagraph 8(h), above), provided all such movements are a part of planned test operations specifically approved by the County Directors concerned and, further provided, that the essential details of such movements be previously made known to local police and safety officials.

#### Part VII - Related Essentials

11. Responsible federal authorities will not place Conelrad, the emergency radio broadcast system designed to make it impossible for enemy aircraft to use radio beams as navigational aides, in effect during "Operation Alert 1955".

12. Officers of the Pennsylvania Civil Defense Radio Amateur System will arrange details of State and Area radio amateur test participation with the Area Civil Defense Directors concerned.

13. Local regulations governing the control of public participation activities carried out during "Condition Red" will be in general conformity with those prescribed for previous statewide tests. The State Council of Civil Defense will make all necessary arrangements relating to traffic control on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and bridges under the jurisdiction of the Delaware River Joint Bridge Commission. The Council further will arrange for the coordination of all inter-state activities.

14. In planning both for statewide and local activities, County and Local Civil Defense Directors should anticipate and make adequate provisions for coping with local "problems". These include traffic control on



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intra-state bridges and other points of likely congestion; the actions of people congregated in public gatherings; the movement of fire engines, ambulances and similar vehicles on actual emergency calls; etc.

15. As in previous statewide tests, the Pennsylvania State Police, acting under orders from Commissioner Earl J. Henry, will extend to all civil defense, county and local officials full cooperation in matters relating to traffic control and general police activities. However, primary responsibility for the development and implementation of plans for test traffic control and other police functions properly rests with county and local officials.

16. To assure the maximum possible degree of participation and success in the June test, the State Council of Civil Defense strongly urges that County and Local Civil Defense Directors:

- (a) Meet together, and also with members of their respective staffs, to outline over-all plans for county and local test activities;
- (b) Prepare detailed plans which will provide for active participation by all trained civil defense personnel (firemen, policemen, medical and rescue teams, welfare and control center workers and others) in simulated emergency operations carried out as a part of the test;
- (c) Enlist the active support of local governmental officials in the promotion of the public participation phase of the test (issuance of special proclamations, personal participation in self-protection programs, etc.); and
- (d) Enlist active support of all press, radio, television and other available news and promotional facilities in the stimulation of local test participation by business and industrial concerns, by public and private agencies, by church and civic groups, by service clubs and by individual citizens.

17. County and Local Civil Defense Directors, actively assisted by county, city, borough, town and township officials, shall be responsible for the conduct of county and local test activities in accordance with the general plan and provisions outlined above.

SPECIAL NOTE: While certain state and federal communications activities associated with "Operation Alert 1955" may extend through a portion of Thursday, June 16, 1955, all county and local test activities in Pennsylvania shall be limited to the period extending from 1205 hours (12:05 P.M.) to 2330 hours (11:30 P.M.), E.D.T., on Wednesday, June 15, 1955, as prescribed by Subparagraph 8(a), above. To eliminate the possibility of public misunderstanding arising from federal press releases concerning the test, all county and local news releases should stress the fact that Pennsylvania test activities will be limited to Wednesday, June 15, 1955.

#### Part VIII - Test Reports

18. In order to permit an evaluation of and over-all report on the relative degree of preparedness of county and local civil defense organizations, all County and Local Civil Defense Directors hereby are directed to file summary reports on the test activities carried out within their respective jurisdictions on June 15, 1955. Special test report forms, incorporating instructions for filing, herewith are being furnished all County Civil Defense Directors for use by County and Local Directors in the submission of the required reports.

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